

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
DHA-05 MCT-01 /105 W
-----044260 120502Z /23

R 112058Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4233
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9519

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, SHUM, CO
SUBJECT: ICFTU-ORIT REPRESENTATIVES CRITICIZE GOC

REF: BOGOTA 8661

1. ENZO FRISO OF THE INTERNATIONAL ONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND MANUEL JOSE DEL PINO OF THE INTER-AMERICAN REGIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ORIT) HAVE HARSHLY CRITICIZED THE GOC FOR THE ALLEGEDLY EXTREME MEASURES IT TOOK DURING LAST SEPTEMBER 14'S GENERAL STRIKE (REFTTEL), ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS. THE TWO LABOR REPRESENTATIVES, WHO ARE IN COLOMBIA TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON THE LOCAL LABOR SITUATION, CHARGE THE GOC WITH VIOLATING INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION AGREEMENTS AND PROMISED TO FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE SITUATION, BEGINNING WITH THE ICFTU'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER.

2. FRISO, REPORTEDLY, WENT ON TO CLAIM THAT THER IS NO DEMOCRACY IN COLOMBIA DUE TO THE DENIAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE "MANIPULATION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS" BY AN "ECONOMIC
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OLIGARCHY". DEL PINO , CONCENTRATING ON THE INCIDENTS OF SEPTEMBER 14, SAID THAT THEY WOULD INVESTIGATE WORKERS' COMPLAINTS OF ALLEGED TORTURING AND KILLING OF WORKERS BY COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES. THE GOC HAS NOT YET REACTED OFFICIALLY TO THE FRISO-DEL INO CRITICISMS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES MAY HAVE

OVERREACTED IN SOME INSTANCES DURING THE GENERAL STRIKE, WE HAVE
SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF OFFICIAL CONDONATION OF SUCH ACTIVITY.
DESPITE CONTINUING, LOCALIZED STRIKES AND THE POSSIBILITY OF
LABOR-SPONSORED PUBLIC MEETINGS ON OCTOBER 28 TO DENOUNCE
THE GOVERNMENT'S SEPTEMBER 14 ACTIONS, THE GOVERNMENT IS CONTIN-
UING TALKS WITH THE LABOR CONFEDERATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO DEVISE
A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO COLOMBIA'S MOST IMMEDIATE LABOR PROBLEMS.
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